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NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

REPORTS OF CASES ARGUED AND DETERMINED IN THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS. By CHARLES ALLEN. Volume VI. Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 1864.

We have another volume of Mr. Allen's valuable Reports, which contains many important cases, thoroughly considered and carefully reported. The subject of corporations, especially railways, occupies a large space in this volume. The question of easements, of light, air, and exemption from annoying or offensive trades and occupations attached to dwelling-houses, is here carefully reviewed by the court. And that is a subject beginning to occupy a large share of interest and attention in the cities and large towns in this country, as it long has done in England. We hope to present our readers with a paper upon the subject before many months.

I. F. R.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF DOWER. By CHARLES H. SCRIBNER. In two vols. Volume I. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1864. Shp., \$6.

It was anciently said that the law had three favorites, life, liberty, and dower. Without discussing the reasons why a mere right of property should have been thus classed with the highest personal rights, we may say, that few subjects of so much importance have received so little separate treatment, and especially in the United States, where, if we except the brief though admirable compendium of Chancellor Kent (4 Comm.), and the small volume by Mr. Lambert, published in 1834, we have had no original work devoted to this important branch of the law.

In a great degree, doubtless, this has been attributable to an idea very general among the profession, that the common law doctrines, though forming the basis of the system in all the states, had been so universally and so materially changed by statutory enactments, that they could not be reduced to a systematic American treatise within any convenient limits.

The profession, we think, will be agreeably surprised to find how completely the work of Mr. Scribner has shown the error of this popular notion. The changes, though made at different times and expressed in every variety of legal phraseology, are shown to have followed, perhaps unconsciously to the innovators, the clear current of American opinion, which, in extending the modern principles of liberal equity into the